

Minutes

Wisconsin Small Business Environmental Council

February 15, 2018 DNR Central Office 101 S Webster Street, Madison, WI Room 513 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Members Present: Amy Litscher, Vince Ruffolo, Jody Jansen

Absent: Rep. Jacque (Rebecca Sande sat in on part of meeting on his behalf.)

DNR Staff: Renee Bashel, Lisa Ashenbrenner Hunt, Laurel Sukup, Jennifer Feyerherm, Dominic Holt, Raechelle Cline, Pam Biersach (Skype), Jean Romback-Bartels (Skype),

Joe Liebau, Kelly Shen - Parks Speakers: Les Davies (Skype) Public Participants: N/A

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Agenda repair

None

Meet Region 5 SBA Regional Advocate - Les Davies

Les introduced himself and SBA's Office of Advocacy

- Les is the Regional Advocate for Region 5, headquartered in Columbus, OH, travels frequently throughout region to meet with stakeholders.
- Each region has an advocate (same as EPA regions).
- Interested in opportunities to work with Council.
 - o Invite members to SBA roundtables.
 - Help small businesses understand how to get a hold of Advocacy.
- Joe Knilans new National Rural Issues Advocate in Office of Advocacy.

Office of Advocacy Activities

- Research on small business economic issues
 - Publish annual small business profiles for each state.
 - Regulatory impact reports.
- Represent small business interests to Congress, White House, federal agencies
 - Issue comment letters on federal actions that affect small businesses.
 - Office of Advocacy is independent from rest of SBA.
- Work on regulatory flexibility and reform
 - o Implementation of Executive Orders 13771 and 13777
 - White House committed to regulatory reform.
- Outreach
 - Roundtables to hear from small businesses
 - Work with chambers, states, congressional offices, etc. to identify stakeholders and encourage involvement.
- Serve as eyes and ears for D.C. office.

Question for Les

Is there still a National Business Council?

- Don't currently have a council that travels the country.
- o Regional Advocates have roundtables in their regions.
- D.C. office has their own roundtables.
- How can SBEC contact Les?
 - Email is best.
 - Calendar of scheduled roundtables will be posted online. Usually 1-2 months in advance.
 - Don't hesitate to reach out to Les.

Council Discussion

- Council could go to Les' roundtables or invite him to their own.
- Identify 3-4 topics to tackle and bring Les in on federal issues.
- Ask Les for any state-specific issues he's heard about.
- Does DNR have data on issues of concern?
- Council could reach out to congressional offices and ask what DNR issues they commonly hear about from constituents.

Action item: Renee will share Les' PowerPoint with Council.

Select 2018 meeting locations and timing / topics and outreach process

Partners / Events

- Wausau Chamber of Commerce Amy
 - Willing to help with meeting space and promotion.
 - o Don't know when their own conferences will be until 6 weeks out.
 - Suggestion to request list of meetings from resorts in Wisconsin Dells.
- DNR Study Groups
 - o Possibility of partnering with one of DNR's many study groups.
 - Usually made up of bigger entities businesses, attorneys, NGOs, etc.
 - Waste Study Group frequently meets in Stevens Point.
- WEDA
 - Meets in Wisconsin Dells twice a year.
- FET
 - May 3 water seminar
 - Room for Council on agenda.
 - Usually 30-40 participants.
 - Environment 2018 Conference
 - Last year did a panel session, prearranged set of questions
 - Full range of business sizes represented.
- Wisconsin Fabricare
 - Hosts evening sessions.
 - Statewide conference in October, possibly with Illinois.
- Portage County Business Council (Stevens Point) Jody
 - Suggested partnering with chambers
 - o State congressional members could attend to increase interest.
 - o Could focus on the area instead of specific issue or industry.
 - Invite mayor of Stevens Point member of Legacy Communities.

Action Item: Jody will ask Portage Business Council about best time of day to hold meeting for maximum attendance.

Decisions

- Council will attend FET Water Seminar on May 3.
 - 45-minute panel session
 - SBEAP will do Council introduction.
 - Laurel can attend is all SBEAP staff are at Annual Training.
 - American Family training center in Madison.
 - o Preplanned questions Council will address to begin the discussion.
- Partner with another event or organization in fall.
 - o Stevens Point area
 - o Talk to state congress representatives from the area.
 - o Hold conference call before fall event to plan.
 - Ask chambers which day is best to avoid conflicts. Proposed dates: September 11, 19 or 20.
 - Holiday Inn has good conference space but Council would probably need to find a sponsor to pay.
 - o Possible topics: SBEAP tools, complex projects, development.
 - Could create list of ideas for people to think about ahead of meeting that they can talk to the Council about.
 - Provide opportunity to discuss other issues outside main focus to get more participation.
 - o Invite municipalities but tailor information to businesses.
 - Lenders may be interested in development topics will be wrapped in with chamber invites.
 - o Important to have knowledgeable DNR staff present to address questions.

Action Item: Renee will tell FET the Council will present in May and get article in FET newsletter to encourage attendance. Begin brainstorming preplanned questions.

Action Item: Jody will ask regional organizations which of three dates is best. Ask local contacts what DNR issues they frequently hear about.

Action Item: Doodle poll for date of planning call for September meeting.

DNR updates – Joe Leibau

Introduction

- New Division Administrator for Business Support and External Services.
- Filling Mark Aquino's old position.
- Grew up on dairy farm, private sector work, Brown County Hazardous Waste, served on Environmental Council on Recycling before joining DNR, former Secretary's Director for South East Region.

Priorities

- Relationships
 - Partner with businesses
 - DNR involvement early in the planning process to work together to find best solutions
 - Quick responses
- CAFOs
 - Educating farms on environmental issues

- Smooth transition of CAFO permitting to DATCP.
- Discussion of South East Region development, including Foxconn.
 - Joe explained that changes to wetlands law only applies to 3 parcels within the EITM zone, increases wetland mitigation requirements.
 - Joe has met with developers from Illinois to work out their concerns on WI projects.
 - o Secretary's Directors and FILs involved in development projects.
 - Common issues include wetlands, brownfields, archaeological and endangered resources.
- Inquiry about DNR meeting with legislature.
 - Department legislative liaison keeps DNR informed.
 - Once a year department leadership meets with legislature probably open meeting that public could attend. Joe will see if he can inform Council of next meeting. Vince is interested in attending.
- Joe encouraged Council to reach out to him at any time.

Other council member updates/comments

None

Public comment

None

Action items:

- Renee will share Les' PowerPoint with Council.
- Jody will ask Portage Business Council about best time of day to hold meeting for maximum attendance.
- Renee will tell FET the Council will present in May and get article in FET newsletter to encourage attendance. Begin brainstorming preplanned questions.
- Jody will ask regional organizations which of three dates is best. Ask local contacts what DNR issues they frequently hear about.
- Doodle poll for planning call for September meeting.

Next meeting: May 3 FET Water Seminar